(c) The main causes of the accidents are:—

(i) Failure of railway staff;

(ii) Failure of persons other than railway staff; and

(iii) Failure of equipment.

(d) Government attaches great importance to the reports of the Commissioners of Railway Safety. Railway staff held responsible for accidents by the Commissioners of Rail-Way Safety are taken up suitably.

The majority of the recommendations made by the Commissioners of Railways Safety in their reports are implemented.

964. [*Transferred in the 5the August*, 1988].

Rise in prices of school text books

965. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been rise in the prices of school text books this year published under the directions of the National Council of Educational Research and Training; if so, what is the minimum and maximum extent of the rise;

(b) whether it has resulted in making the school education more costly;

(c) whether it is a fact that in many States, the school children could not receive these books upto the 2nd week of July and they had to go to school without books; and

(d) if so, what preventive measures were taken in this regard and with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The price of some of the new and reprint text books published by the National Council of Educational Research and Training this year, has increased by Rs. 5.45 per title.

(c) While the reprint editions of the NCERT text-books were available in time, there was some delay in publishing new text books for 1988-89 brought out by the Council. Thus the delay has effected availability of text-books for classes II, IV, VII, IX and XI for which only new text books have been introduced this year.

(d) Arrangements have been made this year for Assistant Commissioners of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan to lift their requirements of the new text books for their respective zones from the NCERT at Delhi so as to ensure their availability in the Kendriya Vidyalayas in the shortest possible time.

Utilisation of rail concessions for the handicapped

966. DR. G. VIJAYA MOMAN REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether rail concessions for the handicapped granted by Government from 1st January, 1987 are being fully utilised; if so, what are the details of beneficiaries so far, State-wise; and

(b) whether any difficulty faced by beneficiaries, their wards or any social voluntary organisation have come to Government's notice and if so, what corrective steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Statistics in regard to the utilisation of concessions granted to handicapped persons are not maintained.

(b) A few cases of railway staff not *accepting the certificates produced by* the handicapped were reported Instructions were repeated to the Railways to honour the certificates issued by the authorised doctors.